RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 4th August, 2009/13 *Sravana,* 1931 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

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ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*441. [The questioner(s) (Shri Dara Singh) was absent. For answer *vide* page 25 *infra*.]

National Rural Livelihood Mission

*442. MS. MABEL REBELLO:††
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether taking a cue from National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme's (NREGS) success, his Ministry is considering to launch an equally ambitious programme of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) for self-employment through skill development by restructuring existing programme called Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, whether Government will guarantee self-employment to Below Poverty Live (BPL) families by organizing Self Help Groups (SHGs) under this scheme;

(c) if so, what are the salient features of the said programme; and

(d) by when this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The proposal for restructuring of the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) into National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is under consideration of Government of India. The aim of re-structuring is to make it universal in application, focused in approach and time bound poverty reduction. It is proposed to provide flexibility to the State Governments to have their own poverty reduction action plans based upon their specific requirements. Stress will be laid on the formation of women Self Help Groups (SHGs). Apart from providing capital

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Ms. Mabel Rebeloo.

subsidy at an enhanced rate, it is also proposed to provide interest subsidy to poor households for loans up to Rs. One lakh from banks. The details of the proposal are, at present, being finalized in consultation with states and other stakeholders.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, the proposal for restructuring SGSY into National Rural Livelihood Mission has been under consideration of the Government of India for a long, long time. The Finance Ministry has also given clearance for that. Besides that, the hon. Finance Minister has announced in his speech that this Mission will be established. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: What are the impediments in operationalising this programme? Why is there so much of delay? Sir, this matter assumes particular significance because there is severe drought in the country and there is severe unemployment in the rural areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, what is the Minister proposing to do? I have already asked the question. I have asked as to what are the impediments. So, he should tell me the impediments.

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no impediment in this. The process is very simple. Sir, we are seized with this problem. We will resolve it as soon as possible. We are committed to it. We have studied and restructured the programme. I would assure the hon. Member that we will restructure as soon as possible.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, 'as soon' means when? There should be some time frame.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your second supplementary.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Yes, Sir, I will put my second supplementary. Sir, this Mission is to be linked to skill development and basically it is a self-employment programme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has got any special component in this project, especially for naxal-affected areas where the youth, girls and boys, are joining the naxalites because of want of employment. Does he have any special component? And if he has, let him specify it. What are the schemes he is going to implement especially for girls and boys who are going astray and joining naxalites? I would like to know that.

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, basically, this programme, the National Rural Livelihood Mission, pertains to the Below Poverty Line persons. So far as the naxalite issue is concerned, if those people fall under the category of BPL families, naturally, they will be taken care of under this scheme.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, what are the special schemes? ...*(Interruptions)*... No, Sir. He has not answered my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't start a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, my question was: What is the special component that he has for naxal-affected youth? He must specify the scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there anything you want to emphasise? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, he must specify the schemes for naxal-affected areas.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, this is a very important question. After the UPA Government's National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme became successful, the Government felt that our utmost duty is to make efforts for eradication of poverty and create employment potentialities. For this, particularly in the rural area, the Government felt that the National Rural Livelihood Mission is necessary. Sir, this scheme was highlighted in the Rashtrapatiji's speech also. In this scheme, the speciality is that the Government wants skilled labour. In the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, there is unskilled labour. So, I want a lengthy and clear-cut reply from the hon. Minister. Even though in the reply, he says 'under consideration', I would like to know: How is he planning, what is the modality, how is he going to get skilled labour?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many questions will you ask at the same time?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: No, Sir, this is one question. जोशी जी बहुत समझदार हैं, बहुत एक्टिव हैं, इंटेलिजेंट हैं। He must categorically tell the House how is he going to implement this scheme to eradicate poverty and create employment potentialities in rural areas. How is he planning and the length of it?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी: मिस्टर चेयरमैन, मैं ऑनरेबल मैम्बर का ध्यान माननीय फाइनैंस मिनिस्टर की स्पीच की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं, जिसमें हमने कमिट किया है कि Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is being restructured into the National Rural Livelihood Mission to make it universal in application, focussed in approach and time-bound for poverty eradication by 2014-15. Stress will be laid on the formation of women Self Help Groups. Apart from providing capital subsidy at an enhanced rate, it is also proposed to provide interest subsidy to the poor for loans up to Rs. 1 lakh from banks.

माननीय सभापति जी, आप सभी जानते हैं कि लंबे समय से गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों के जीवन-स्तर में परिवर्तन लाने के लिए योजना बन रही है, पहले TRYSEM की योजना बनी, IRDP की योजना बनी, SGSY की योजना बनी, इन कमियों को overcome करने के बाद यह नयी योजना बनने जा रही है, जिस योजना में Self Help Groups और खास तौर से BPL परिवारों में से एक महिला को इसके साथ जोड़कर, उनकी कैपेसिटी को enhance करके, उनको गरीबी रेखा से बाहर निकालने का कार्यक्रम है। मैं विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूं कि इस कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से हम गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों के परिवारों को address करेंगे और उनको गरीबी रेखा से ऊपर लाने का काम करेंगे।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सभापति जी, मुद्दा यह है कि इस योजना के अंतर्गत Women Self Help Groups को एक लाख रुपए तक देने की बात है, लेकिन बेरोज़गार तो नौजवान भी हैं। Women Self Help Groups में जो महिलाएं स्वरोज़गार करना चाहती हैं, उनका ख्याल रखा जाएगा, लेकिन जो पुरुष हैं, यानी नौजवानों के लिए मंत्री जी क्या प्रोविजन बनाना चाहते हैं? इसके साथ ही यह भी महत्वपूर्ण है कि यह ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना में परिवर्तन की बात है, लेकिन शहरों में जो योजना है, वह भी निरर्थक साबित हो रही है, उसके लिए सरकार क्या करना चाहती है?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी: सभापति जी, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय से संबंधित जो योजना है, मैंने उसके बारे में निवेदन किया है, इसके अलावा UDA Department, Labour Department, Textile Department, अलग-अलग विभाग इस समस्या को address करने के लिए अपनी स्कीमें बना रहे हैं। जहां तक मेरे विभाग का प्रश्न है, उस विभाग में SGSY Scheme, जो मूलतः BPL परिवारों को address करती है, उसको change करके हम NRLM के अंतर्गत लाने का काम करना चाहते हैं। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि मेरे विभाग से संबंधित पहलू के बारे में मैंने बता दिया है। बाकी जो गरीबी रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले हैं, जो नौजवान आदमी हैं, जो बेरोजगार हैं, उनकी समस्याओं को address करने के लिए अलग-अलग विभाग अपनी स्कीमें बनाकर काम कर रहे हैं।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: पुरुषों का क्या ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No supplementary on supplementaries.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: Women Self Help Groups की बात आपने कही, पुरुषों की बात नहीं कही है, जो नौजवान हैं, उनका क्या होगा?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prakashji, please.

श्री सी.पी. जोशी: Rural Self Help Groups के अंतर्गत जो 'other than *mahila*' हैं, उनको address करने के लिए SGSY में स्कीम है, उसको upgrade कर रहे हैं, इसलिए उनको बाहर नहीं कर रहे हैं। महिलाओं को भी उसमें हम आगे बढ़ाने का काम करना चाहते हैं और जो नौजवान आदमी हैं, जो BPL परिवारों में रहते हैं, उसके अंतर्गत भी योजना है, जिसका लाभ उनको मिलेगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Smt. Brinda Karat.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Thank you, Sir. सर, यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है, क्योंकि आज ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में खेती संबंधित कार्यों के दिन घट रहे हैं। इसलिए उनकी जीविका के अवसर बढ़ाने के लिए निश्चित रूप से इस Livelihood Mission की बहुत जरूरत भी है और उसका लाभ भी होगा, लेकिन इस बयान में एक contradiction है, एक विरोधाभास है। एक तरफ restructuring में मंत्री जी कह रहे हैं कि वह universal in application होगा, यानी वह सार्वजनिक होगा, उसमें कोई BPL या APL का सवाल नहीं होगा और दूसरी तरफ ये कह रहे हैं कि ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, स्टेटमेंट में contradiction है, इसलिए मुझे रखना पड़ेगा। दूसरी तरफ आप कह रहे हैं कि Mahila SAGs पर आप विशेष ध्यान देंगे। आज Mahila SAGs को यह दिक्कत है कि आज केवल BPL घरानों की महिलाएं, जिनके पास BPL cards हैं, उन्हीं को आप इन Self Help Groups में रख रहे हैं। तो पहला सवाल यह है कि Self Help Groups के बारे में मंत्रालय की स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने बार-बार जो सिफारिश की है...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने यह सिफारिश की है कि BPL की जो सीमा है, उसको आप थोड़ा बढ़ाइए, ताकि जो गरीब औरतें हैं, जिनके पास BPL card नहीं है, वे भी इसका लाभ उठा सकें, तो क्या इस restructuring में यह जो BPL की सीमा है, इसको आप हटाएंगे और दूसरी बात यह है कि National Commission on Farmers ने जो...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask one supplementary and please don't take too long. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, यह इसी के साथ है ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; this is not a debate. This is a supplementary on a question which has been answered.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: तो क्या National Commission on Farmers की जो सिफारिशें हैं, क्या restructuring करते समय, आप उनको जीविका बढ़ाने के संबंध में जोड़ेंगे?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी: सभापति जी, SGSY particularly aim करती है BPL रहने वाले लोगों पर। अब BPL परिवारों के Census दोबारा होने वाले हैं, BPL परिवारों के Census में जो लोग जुड़ेंगे, उनको लाभ मिलेगा। जहां तक agricultural farming की बात आपने कही है, SGSY इस समस्या को address नहीं करता है, SGSY केवल मात्र BPL परिवारों के लिए बनाई गई स्कीम है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. K. Malaisamy.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: आप "universal" शब्द क्यों इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. Leave apart the highlights of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, with which I agree, there are several low areas. The Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out a lot of lapses and failures in the implementation of the Scheme. Moreover, — I got my personal knowledge in Tamil Nadu — the work to be done by the workers or labourers is being done by big machines and the accounts are being written as if it is done by rural labourers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: It is not correct.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I have got my personal knowledge.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You may well be very knowledgeable.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: It is done. I can cite an example. In Valasai Salai village of Paramakudi Taluka this has happened. I can prove this with all authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: What I am trying to say is that the misuse is relevant. There is misuse. In such a situation, the question is: When there are several lapses and failures, can you take this as a hint for restructuring and doing something? What I am trying to say is ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please say it.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: .... before you take it up as a guideline, you must have a foolproof system so that it can be *pucca*. This is my suggestion. I would like to know whether it is advisable or desirable.

SHRI C. P. JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can assure the hon. Member that while restructuring the Scheme, we will take care of whatever he has stated.